

store the respective functional scope in said control unit memory.

*25*  
33. The multimedia system for a house or an apartment according to claim *20*, wherein said at least one individual multimedia unit is a plurality of individual multimedia units each formed to automatically transmit the respective functional scope of each of said plurality of individual multimedia units stored in said associated individual multimedia unit memories over said bus system to said control unit and continuously [stored] store the respective functional scope in said control unit memory.--

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1 to 6 and 8 to 33 are now in the application. Claims 1 to 6 and 8 to 26 have been amended. Claim 7 has been canceled to facilitate prosecution of the instant application. Claims 27 to 33 have been added.

In item 2 on pages 2 to 3 of the April 21, 1999 Office action, claims 1 to 26 were rejected as being obvious over Chapman (U.S. 5,073,943) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

To even more clearly define the features of the invention of the instant application, applicants have amended claims 1 to 6 and 8 to 26, and have added claims 27 to 33.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Amended claim 1 calls for, *inter alia*, a multimedia system for a motor vehicle, including:

a control unit with a control unit memory;

a display and input unit having a changeable operating menu for operating a multimedia system;

at least one individual multimedia unit with an associated individual multimedia unit memory containing a functional scope of the at least one individual multimedia unit; and

a bus system connected to the control unit, the display and input unit, and the at least one individual multimedia unit, the control unit formed to detect the functional scope of the at least one individual multimedia unit connected to the bus system, to store the detected functional scope in the control unit memory, and to automatically display an operating menu responsive to a sum of the functional scope of the at least one individual multimedia unit connected to the bus system.

The invention of the instant application includes a bus system to which several decentralized multimedia units are connected.

A multimedia unit can be, for example, a navigation system, a loudspeaker, a cassette player, and a CD player. The control unit automatically detects the different multimedia units after they are connected to the bus system, and/or turned on, and automatically stores the functional scope of each and

every multimedia unit connected to the bus in the control unit memory. Furthermore, the control unit generates signals for displaying, on a display and input unit, respective operational menus for the particular multimedia units connected to the system. A user of the system can vary the operational menus and displays according to the desired wishes of that user. Significantly, when a new multimedia unit is connected to the bus system, for example, a television receiver, the control unit will automatically detect this addition and incorporate the functional scope of the television receiver into the existing operational menus and displays. Therefore, the invention of the instant application includes a control unit with a memory that stores the functional scope of the multimedia units connected to the bus. The configuration of the invention of the instant application enables data representing the functional scope to be transferred from the multimedia units to the control unit. An example for such data representation can be "I am a compact disc player that is able to handle six different compact discs."

Chapman indeed discloses a bus system and different units (i.e., audio processor, display, and clock) that are connected to a bus system and controlled by a microprocessor. Furthermore, the microprocessor 25 and units 27, 29, 30 each have associated memories. However, there is absolutely no

data transfer from the units to the microprocessor indicating what kind of unit is connected to the bus system. There is especially no data transfer indicating the entire functional scope of any unit. Chapman's audio system is a fixed system in which it is not possible to adapt further multimedia units (i.e., television receiver, navigation system, etc.). Chapman does not have any disclosure or suggestion indicating that the information shown on the display varies depending on the units connected to the bus system. For all of the above reasons, applicant respectfully believes that Chapman does not obviate the invention of the instant application.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1, 20, or 21. Claims 1, 20, and 21 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on independent claims 1, 20, and 21.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 to 6 and 8 to 33 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a

telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of three (3) months pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$870.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 and the fee for six (6) claims in excess of twenty (20) in the amount of \$108.00 under Section 1.16(c) are enclosed herewith.

Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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For Applicant

GLM:cgm

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